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PROCEEDINGS

of

THE TRAVANCORE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

SECOND COUNCIL.

VOLUME XII—NUMBER 1.

THIRD SESSION—1938|1113.

Saturday, the 23rd July, 1938|8th Karkatakam 1113.

The Council met in Joint Session with the Sri Mulam Assembly in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, at Eleven of the Clock, the President, Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E., Dewan of Travancore, Presiding.

Mr. C. P. Skrine, I. C. S., O. B. E., Resident for the Madras States who was present, was seated along with the Dewan on the Dais.

Mr. K. J. CHERIYAN (*Acting Financial Secretary to Government*):

Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 1114.

Before reviewing the financial position for the current and ensuing years, I shall, as usual, explain briefly the results of the last completed financial year (1112).

ACTUALS OF 1112.

2. The ordinary revenue and expenditure charged to revenue for the year 1112 were Rs 256·41 lakhs and Rs 241·62 lakhs respectively against the revised estimates of Rs 251·54 lakhs and

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Rs 240·02 lakhs. The year thus closed with a surplus of Rs 14·79 lakhs against Rs 11·52 lakhs anticipated in the revised estimates for the year. But, as explained in the previous two budget speeches, Rs 12 lakhs out of the above revenue surplus was transferred to the credit of the Revenue Reserve Fund with a view to provide for special and capital expenditure and also to meet unforeseen fall of revenue. The net surplus for the year was thus reduced to Rs 2·79 lakhs.

The revenue for the year exceeded the revised estimate by Rs 4·87 lakhs. The improvement in revenue was chiefly under Land Revenue (2·06), Salt (·42), Customs (·90), Stamps (·47) and Stationery and Printing (·57). Under Land Revenue, the increase was due to better collections of Ayacut Revenue. The improvement in Salt revenue was under Duty on salt, due to larger consumption of salt. Under Customs, the increase was under Export duty and also under Duty on tea. The increase in Stamp revenue was due to larger sales of General Stamps. Under Stationery and Printing, the increase was due to the sale of Malayalam Readers and copy books. Forest Revenue was however less than the revised estimate by Rs ·43 of a lakh due to less receipts from the sale of Royal trees and jungle wood by Government agency.

The actual expenditure of the year excluding the contribution of Rs. 12 lakhs to the Revenue Reserve Fund amounted to Rs 241·62 lakhs and was in excess of the revised estimate by Rs 1·60 lakhs. The increase in expenditure was mainly under Interest (1·26), Political pensions (·53), and Superannuation allowances and pensions (·82). Under Interest, the increase was due to the larger investments in the Savings Bank. Payment of previous years' arrears of pension during the year accounts for the increase under Political Pensions. The increase under Superannuation allowances and Pensions, was due to the general increase in the number of retirements.

On the capital side, the receipts from the sale of Government lands and Capital Expenditure not charged to revenue amounted to Rs 1·31 lakhs and Rs 11·12 lakhs respectively against the revised estimates of Rs 1·40 lakhs and Rs 18·90 lakhs. A sum of Rs 2·54 lakhs was also written off the accounts during the year as loss on investment in the State-aided Bank Ltd., Alleppey, in accordance with the terms of the tentative agreement with the Bank, dated September 1936.

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As a result of the year's transactions, both ordinary and capital, including loss written off, the Government Account balance which was expected to stand at Rs 74·61 lakhs in the Revised estimates for 1112 was reduced to Rs 73·58 lakhs at the close of the year.

REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1113.

3. The Budget estimates for the current year were for a total revenue of Rs 249·48 lakhs and provided for a programme of expenditure of Rs 246·88 lakhs resulting in a revenue surplus of Rs 2·60 lakhs. On the basis of the actuals so far available, the revenue is expected to stand at Rs 251·06 lakhs and the expenditure charged to Revenue at Rs 250·06 lakhs. The current year is thus expected to close with a small revenue surplus of Rs 1·00 lakh against Rs 2·60 lakhs anticipated in the Budget. The ordinary revenue for the year is expected to be better than the original budget anticipation by Rs 1·58 lakhs being the net result of an improvement in revenue to the extent of Rs 5·71 lakhs under some of the major heads of revenue and a decline of Rs 4·13 lakhs under others. The expected improvement in revenue is mainly under Land Revenue (·40), Customs (1·00), Excise duty on matches (·70), Education (·50), Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements (·50) and Commercial Transport (1·15). Under Land Revenue, the increase is due to better receipts under Ordinary Revenue and Miscellaneous. I may mention here that owing to the severe drought of 1112 and insufficiency of water to irrigate lands in Thovala, Agastiswaram and Kalkulam taluks, remission of tax for the Kanni crop of 1113 in respect of an extent of 25,276 acres amounting to Rs 1·09 lakhs was sanctioned by Government. The increase under Customs is due to the improvement, to the extent of Rs 4·30 lakhs, under duty on exports including tea, off-set by a decline of Rs 3·13 lakhs under Cochin Harbour Receipts, due mainly to the fall in imports of sugar owing to the policy of sugar protection. While framing the Budget estimates for the current year, it was assumed that the net customs revenue in the Cochin Port for the year ended March 1937 would amount to at least Rs 49·00 lakhs and our share of the net collections would amount to Rs 16·50 lakhs. A revenue of Rs 12·40 lakhs was thus expected from this source after deducting the import duty collected in our ports from Quilon to Munambam and also the duty collected on Jaffna tobacco. But, owing to the absence of the import of Java sugar through the

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